



Danquart Anthon  
Weggeand



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## CHILDREN ICE-SKATING

*Painting by Danquart Anthon  
Weggeland*

*Winter snows in pioneer times brought their own kind of pleasures. The Saints could rest from their agricultural labors and take time out for fun.*

*Wagon boxes were placed on runners and filled with warmed bricks or hay and quilts to make one of the common pioneer sleighs. These horse-drawn sleighs provided much of the wintertime amusement. Sleigh racing, snowball fighting, belly busting (sledding), and ice-skating added their measure of good times.*

*Dan Weggeland captures this spirit of winter frolic in the painting of pioneer children ice-skating. Bundled against the cold, the children are enjoying each other's company and the challenge of the ice.*

*Skates consisted of removable blades attached to the soles of the shoes. A spill on the ice often caused the shoe sole to tear loose, and many a pioneer child had to have his shoes resoled a couple of times each winter.*

*Skating was done on frozen ponds or rivers, or sometimes a meadow or field was flooded to make the necessary ice.*

*The painter, Danquart Anthon Weggeland, was born in Norway in 1827. He joined the Church there in 1854 and, after serving a mission, came to Utah in 1863. He was a prolific artist, producing many paintings of Utah scenery and pioneer life until his death at the age of 91. Weggeland has been called the "Father of Utah Art." □*

